

REMARKS

Claims 7-12 are in the application. They replace claims 1-6 which have been deleted from the application.

The Examiner will note that the specification and claims of the application have been amended to remove the term "bowl".

Applicants have noted that the Examiner has indicated that original claims 2-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

However, applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 7 as presented in this amendment is also patentable over the art of record.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) are respectfully requested.

The Examiner has applied the reference to Schneid as showing axially movable insulating sleeves 14, and the Examiner has referred to the sentence bridging columns 1 and 2 of the reference which mentions that the thermal insulator can be displaced axially.

Claim 7 as presented in this amendment does not recite an axial movement of the insulation bushings.

Rather, claim 7 is restricted to a rotational movement of the insulation bushings. Applicants respectfully submit that the limitation of the rotation of the insulation bushings distinguishes over the reference to Schneid.

Accordingly, the rejection of the independent claim under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schneid should be withdrawn.

The reference to Zaoralek also does not disclose or suggest the present invention as it is now claimed in the present application. In addition, since the U.S. filing date of the reference is after the priority date of the present application, this reference can be eliminated by providing a translation of the priority document.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231, on March 18, 2003

By: F. Kueffner Date: March 18, 2003  
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